

## Progress Report on Key Indicators College Participation, College-Going, and Educational Attainment

Significant progress was made in 2001 toward enrolling a greater proportion of Kentucky's adult citizens in postsecondary education. Data from the 2000 census confirms that educational attainment rates in Kentucky are improving.

Two indicators under question 2 – “Are more students enrolling?” -- assess the college participation rate of Kentuckians. Previous reports indicated that enrollment in Kentucky's postsecondary institutions is increasing. The new measurements presented here express enrollment as a percentage of the state's population. During fall 2001, 6.6 percent of Kentuckians aged 18 and over were enrolled in postsecondary education (indicator 2.5). This compares to a statewide college participation rate of 6.35 percent for 2000, and meets the goal established for 2002.

A companion measurement to the statewide college participation rate is the participation rate in the council's target counties (indicator 2.6). The council aims to narrow the gap in college participation between the target counties – those with low educational attainment, college-going rates, and per capita income and high unemployment – and the rest of the state (see attached map). The percentage of the adult population from target counties enrolled in postsecondary education rose from 4.7 percent in 2000 to 4.9 percent in 2001, showing a greater percentage increase than that of the state as a whole. At this rate of increase, we will meet the 2002 goal as planned.

Additional indicators under question 2 gauge college-going rates in Kentucky. As previously reported, the statewide college-going rates of high school graduates and of recent GED completers rose during 2001. Updated county-level data indicates that the college-going rate of recent high school graduates from target counties (indicator 2.8) also improved. In 2001, 51.2 percent of these students enrolled in postsecondary education the fall following high school graduation. In 2000, less than 50 percent of high school graduates from target counties enrolled directly in college.

Earlier this spring, the Bureau of the Census released official educational attainment rates for Kentucky based on the 2000 census. According to the census, educational attainment in Kentucky rose at both the high school and baccalaureate levels during the 1990s, but at a slower pace than previously projected. Between 1990 and 2000, the percentage of Kentucky's population without a high school diploma or equivalent dropped from 35.4 percent to 25.9 percent. During the same period, the percentage of Kentuckians with a bachelor's degree or higher rose from 13.6 percent to 17.1 percent. These figures replace earlier, higher Census Bureau estimates of educational attainment in the state. The council staff will use the revised 2000 figures as a baseline to reestablish goals and gauge progress on indicators 1.2 (percentage

of the population with less than a high school diploma or GED) and 3.6 (percentage of the population with a baccalaureate degree).

Using the key indicators traffic light evaluation system, the results presented here add two green lights (indicating good progress) and one yellow light (some progress) under question 2. To date, 2001 results are available for 20 of the 42 indicators. Systemwide, there are 12 green lights, seven yellow lights and one red light (no progress). A summary of overall progress is shown on the attached chart.

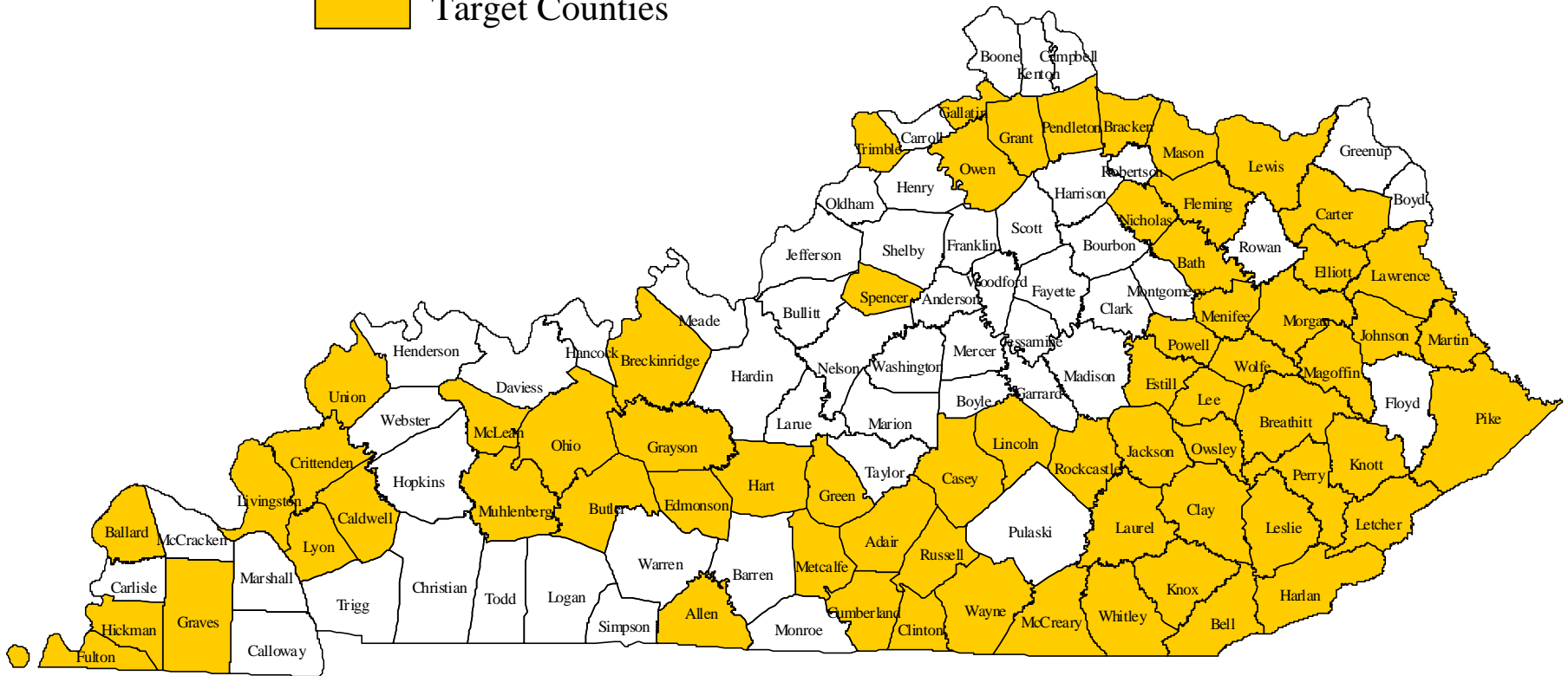
For up-to-date information on these and other key indicators, see <http://www.cpe.state.ky.us/KeyInd/index.asp>.

Staff preparation by Christina Whitfield

# Target Counties

Counties with high unemployment and low per capita income, educational attainment, and college-going rates

 Target Counties



# Key Indicators of Progress

toward

## Postsecondary Reform in Kentucky

July 2002 - Progress Report



### ● 1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education? .....Some progress

#### **Preparation of Adults**

- 1. Percentage of adults at literacy levels one and two .....Next measurement 2002
- 2. Percentage of adults with less than high school diploma or GED .....Next measurement 2002

#### **Preparation of Recent High School Graduates**

- 3. Average ACT scores of high school graduates .....No progress
- 4. Percentage of high school graduates taking the ACT .....Some progress
- 5. Number of college-level courses per 1,000 HS juniors and seniors .....Exceeded 2002 goal
- 6. Percentage of high school students completing ACT core coursework .....Some progress
- 7. High school test scores .....Under development

#### **Affordability (Family Ability to Pay)**

- 8. Percentage of income needed to pay for college expenses .....Next measurement 2002

### ● 2. Are more students enrolling? .....Good progress

#### **Postsecondary Enrollment**

- 1. Number of undergraduates (system total) .....Exceeded 2002 goal
- 2. Number of graduates/professionals (public universities) .....Exceeded 2002 goal
- 3. Number of students enrolled in KYVU credit courses .....Exceeded 2002 goal
- 4. Number of "new students" enrolled in KYVU credit courses .....Under development

#### **College Participation**

- 5. Percentage of the adult population enrolled in KY colleges .....Met 2002 goal
- 6. Percentage enrolled from target counties .....Some progress

#### **College-Going**

- 7. Percentage of students attending college directly out of high school .....Exceeded 2002 goal
- 8. Percentage from target counties .....Good progress
- 9. College-going rates of GED completers within two years .....Exceeded 2002 goal

### ● 3. Are more students advancing through the system? .....Good progress

#### **Persistence and Completion**

- 1. One-year retention rates of first-time freshmen, three-year average .....Some progress
- 2. One-year retention rates of underprepared students .....Next measurement 2002
- 3. One-year systemwide retention rate of first-time freshmen .....Good progress
- 4. Number of community and technical college transfers .....Some progress
- 5. Average number of credit hours transferred .....Exceeded 2002 goal

#### **Graduation**

- 6. Percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher .....Next measurement 2002
- 7. Six-year graduation rates of bachelor's degree students .....Good progress
- 8. Five-year graduation rates of transfer students - three-year average .....Good progress

● 4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work? .....Under development

**Undergraduate Student Experience**

- 1. National Survey of Student Engagement.....Next measurement 2003

**Alumni Satisfaction**

- 2. Undergraduate alumni survey results .....No goal  
○ 3. Graduate alumni survey results .....Under development

**Civic Engagement**

- 4. Undergraduate alumni survey .....No goal  
○ 5. National Survey of Student Engagement.....Next measurement 2003

**Knowledge and Skills**

- 6. Teacher Preparation Programs .....Under development  
○ 7. Foundational skills.....Under development

● 5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting? .....Good progress

**Employment of Graduates**

- 1. Percentage of college graduates working in Kentucky .....Under development  
○ 2. Percentage of out-of-state college graduates working in Kentucky .....Under development

**Employer and Community Satisfaction**

- 3. Employer and community satisfaction with KY graduates and completers .....Under development  
○ 4. Employer and community satisfaction with institutions' support .....Under development

**Research and Development**

- 5. Total research and development expenditures per full-time faculty.....Next measurement 2002  
● 6. Total extramural research and development expenditures .....Good progress  
● 7. Federal research and development expenditures .....Some progress  
○ 8. Endowments in knowledge-based economy (KBE) areas .....Next measurement 2002  
○ 9. Expenditures from endowments and gifts in KBE areas .....Next measurement 2002  
○ 10. Productivity of research space .....Under development

**LEGEND**

● Good Progress   ● Some Progress   ● No Progress   ● Pending